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ADDRESSES

ON THE

FOUNDATION AND ENDOWMENT

OF THE

ROSWELL P. FLOWER LIBRARY

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CORNELL UNIVERSITY
THE
Flower Veterinary Library
FOUNDED BY
ROSWELL P. FLOWER
for the use of the
N. Y. STATE VETERINARY COLLEGE
1897

Addresses at the Exercises in Recognition of the
Foundation and Endowment
of the
Roswell P. Flower Library.*

*In 1897 ROSWELL P. FLOWER gave to Cornell University five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to found a library especially adapted for the use of the Faculty and Students of the New York State Veterinary College. By a vote of the Trustees of the University in accepting this gift, September 21, 1897, the library thus founded was named the "Roswell P. Flower Library."

In April, 1901, MRS. ROSWELL P. FLOWER gave ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) as an endowment to this library, the income of which is to be used solely for the purchase of books and periodicals and thus to perpetually keep the library abreast of the advances in all that pertains to comparative medicine. In the library hangs a portrait of Governor Flower and under it a tablet with the inscription: "The Roswell P. Flower Library, Founded 1897." The exercises in recognition of these generous benefactions were held in the Amphitheatre of the Veterinary College, June 12, 1901, at 12 M.

Introductory Remarks

BY

Jacob Gould Schurman,

President of Cornell University.



AFTER the death of our great benefactor, Henry W. Sage, who succeeded the founder in the chairmanship of the Board of Trustees, we were all at a loss to know where a man should be found to take the position which these two great men had so admirably filled. There was, however, in the Board, a man who by his own unaided efforts, by thrift, industry, and high character, had raised himself to a conspicuous position in the financial world, and who, by his exertions on behalf of the public, had won a distinguished reputation in the State of New York, which he had served as governor, and also throughout the nation, to which he had rendered invaluable service as a champion of wise public policy, of sound finance, and of the rights, within their respective spheres, both of capital and of labor.

By the unanimous vote of his colleagues, ex-Governor Roswell P. Flower was elected chairman of the Board of Trustees of Cornell University. He had scarcely entered upon his labors before an untimely death snatched him from us. His practical interest in the University had, however, manifested itself, and by a generous gift he had established a library for the Veterinary College, in the foundation of which he had been a most efficient agent. This library his widow has recently enriched with a perpetual endowment of \$10,000. And we have come together to celebrate briefly, but not, I think, inappropriately, the beautiful act of our gracious benefactress. I call, therefore, upon Dr. Law, the Director of our Veterinary College, for a short address on the scope and functions of the Roswell P. Flower Library.



Address of
Dr. James Law,

Director of the New York State Veterinary College.

IT SEEMS proper that I should say a word on behalf of this college upon the good fortune which has visited us in the endowment of our library. Speaking for the teachers and students, I feel warranted in saying that no gift could come to us which would be more far-reaching in its benefit, than that of the literature, past, present and future, that bears directly upon our daily work. A celebrated living medical teacher in advocating the value of laboratories has referred to books as the graves of living thought. This may be true if the book is never taken from its library shelf, but if it is read and studied it is far more truly the seed of future thought and successful work. The book is or should be the expression of contemporary thought, the record of contemporary knowledge. Often, it is true, the thought is useless or pernicious, but so is the word of the living man, and so must be the book in which it is printed. So called medicine has passed through its eras of

superstition, of fetichism, of folly and of baseless authority, but it has successfully emerged into the day which demands scientific demonstration, and holds each doctrine or alleged truth as no more certain than the evidence on which it rests.

The epizootic or epidemic is no longer attributed to the wrath of Apollo as it was under the walls of Troy; the Baal fire is no longer lighted and the libations poured to secure propitious conditions for man and beast; the white horse is not sacrificed to avert the wrath of the thunder god; the horse shoe on the door is less in evidence; the signs of the zodiac are less assiduously studied to foretell the results of operation or illness. Yet the clouds and mysteries have not been completely dispelled even in civilized lands; we still see and hear some survivals of early cults. Even in 1865 a learned priest and bishop pronounced the Rinderpest which was devastating the herds on the fair fields of England, a judgment of the Almighty visited upon a people who sinned in literally worshipping their live stock. In America to-day the high priestess of the misnamed Christian Science tells us that Christ used no drugs in healing, and that the use of drugs is therefore an impious act. Inconsistently enough she and her followers use other modern discoveries without compunction, including the printing press and its product, for the propagation of their delusion.

The 20th century physician and veterinarian are delivered from the danger of such vagaries, and for them much of the older works are mainly valuable as matters of history, yet even as such, they can

at times throw an instructive light on problems that confront us to-day. We can in them study the special or local prevalence of disease, under conditions that are not to be readily found to-day, (under primitive states of agriculture, wars, famines, inundations, droughts, etc.) and deduce from them conclusions corroborative or corrective of present indications or ideas. The veterinarian of to-day realizes that his knowledge is unreliable unless it is in harmony with and based upon the immutable laws of the universe, and rests assured that under the same conditions in all respects, the same result must constantly follow the same cause. In place of dreading that his work may be impious, he realizes that he is endeavoring to place in motion the laws of God himself, and in this he can confidently count on the Divine approval.

But no one man can for himself prove every doctrine or truth, even in medicine alone. Even in scientific enquiry he must take much on faith in the workers who have preceded him, and he must build on the solid foundations which they have prepared. To do this he must have at his command the record of their work, and if that has been done with all modern scientific precautions against fallacy, and if it is endorsed by other competent workers in the same field he can do this with reasonable confidence. In this consists the value of a library which shall keep the student and worker in constant touch with the labor and research of others. Without it the investigator is liable to spend all his time and skill in resolving

problems which have already been settled elsewhere. Without it he is denied the data from which to deduce the present status of achievement on any given question, and the material which would suggest to him the burning question of the hour; and the question which, by an obvious step forward, promises the most complete success. He may be liberally furnished with brains, natural ability, and training in scientific technic; he may be endowed with that love of truth and earnestness in work that might accomplish miracles almost under favorable conditions, but if he is handicapped by an enforced ignorance of the recent work in his own particular field of science, he is likely to spend much of his splendid powers and restless energy in comparatively barren fields.

I may, therefore, say with confidence that the founding of the Roswell P. Flower Veterinary Library, followed by its endowment is the greatest boon that could have come to this institution.

When on the recommendation of Governor Flower the legislature of New York provided for the founding of this college, there were available in the University library over 5,000 volumes on medicine, human and veterinary, and on cognate subjects; but most of these dated back to a time when medical doctrines and truths had not yet taken on their most recent development. At the time of their publication modern bacteriology was in its infancy, and since that time many medical truths had taken on a new meaning. In this particular direction it may be said that modern medicine dates back but for fifteen or twenty years

only. Epidemeiology, epizootology, sanitary science and police have been especially affected in this way. The source of the microbe, the nature of its toxin, its action on the animal system, its exclusion, destruction, elimination, or its antidotes are examples of the subjects that must now claim our attention. It was most important that the new institution should be furnished with the newer as well as the older truths of medicine. This need bears upon and is felt in every branch of medicine. In anatomy, physiology, histology, surgery, medicine, hygiene, prophylactics, therapeutics, and sanitary police it must be constantly kept in mind if we would reach sound conclusions. The new knowledge pervades all and dominates at so many points that the person who is ignorant of it is unquestionably out of the race. He may hold a position by reason of previously acquired public confidence, and the community or the government may keep his place secure, but, as a matter of fact, he remains as a barnacle on the ship of state, or to speak without metaphor, as an injurious empiric.

Before proceeding further we must note, that no field in nature is wider than that of the microbes and their products, and notwithstanding all that has been accomplished in the past few years, none presents a greater number of unsolved problems. It is, and must long remain an open and prolific field of research, and every year and every month must bring us something new and valuable to add to our treasured stores. In this we are not dealing with things already fully accomplished and

therefore unchangeable as in history or geology, nor with truths absolute as in mathematics. The subject of our enquiry lives, and the sum total of its possible living combinations furnishes a practically endless variety, and forbids the hope that we can map out the field for all time and establish conclusions that no future possible combinations can modify. The movement toward this object, must and will be constant and permanently advancing, and so must be the mind of the student who would devote himself to medicine in any form. He cannot afford to ignore what has survived and what must ever survive of the medical lore of the past, but no less can he disregard the most recent work in contemporary research.

If we enter another branch of our subject we are confronted by a very similar state of things. It is not so long since the humoral pathology held sway and all diseases were attributed to modifications of the liquids of the body. It was an enormous advance when Goodsir demonstrated the cells and nuclei as the centers of nutrition in the organic being, and Virchow promulgated his doctrine of cellular pathology. Later came the demonstration of the cell network and plasma, of the chromatin filaments and nodes, and of the parts played by these and by the nucleus, nucleolus and centrosome in the various modes of cell division and growth. To-day on the basis of these truths we have new theories and demonstrations of life, of growth, of development, of heredity, of variation, of atavism, of disease, of recovery, of therapeutics. And the end is not yet. We

are coming step by step, deeper into the arcana of life and the sources of things, but we cannot for a moment suppose that we have reached the actual foundation of existence, nor that we have reached the knowledge of the endless modes in which such truths have their bearing on hygiene and medicine.

Wherever we turn we see the evidence of rich harvests being gathered, and of springing seeds from which richer harvests are soon to come. To a center of science and research the revelation of each new achievement is a *sine qua non* of a proper standing and a successful advance, and unless our library can reach out its arms into all centers of activity in allied subjects, and bring the results to our doors, our standing must be impaired and our future clouded.

The facilities which we have enjoyed in the past for giving a thorough education in comparative medicine, have led to results that are very gratifying to the friends of the institution. Four of our students have been called to the position of teachers in other colleges, one is now in demand at a salary of \$2,500. Five were called to be meat inspectors in the Bureau of Animal Industry with salaries commencing at \$1,200 a year, a position reached through a civil service examination which the ordinary veterinarian could not face. In the regents examination for license to practice, 50 per cent. of our graduates took marks of 90 and upward and no one fell below the average mark of 80, while of those from other colleges 47.5 per cent. fell below 80, and only 12.5 per

cent. obtained 90 and over. In the entire central and western part of the state, none but graduates of this college have, by a successful civil service examination, become eligible to serve the state in veterinary sanitary matters. Finally under the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research which has just been organized with a preliminary fund of \$200,000, the request has come to us for a suitable man to investigate the nature of the milk supply of the city of New York.

It is in no invidious or boastful spirit that I refer to these facts, but rather to show that we have been faithful to the trust reposed in us, and that the opportunities furnished have not been wasted or neglected. As regards numbers the students working here for a veterinary degree have increased steadily at the rate of thirty to forty per cent. per annum.

With such a satisfactory experience under the better conditions, it was with no little anxiety that we foresaw the approaching exhaustion of the gift of Governor Flower, so that excellent as our library now is, it would be left without the means of continued vitality and growth, or it would have to be maintained by the use of State funds, which would introduce endless confusion in the matter of ownership. In our extremity the matter was brought to the attention of the Flower family by Professor Gage and Mrs. Flower came promptly to our relief with an endowment fund of \$10,000, sufficient to secure for the library year by year, and month by month much of the freshest fruits of research in the different subjects on which the Col-

lege is engaged, and to constantly inspire its readers with the life and thought of active contemporary work in all parts of the world.

For the expenditure of nearly \$4,000 of the original gift we have a very satisfactory showing. First, we have the library of the late Dr. John Busteed, of New York, the founder of the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons, embracing a number of rare and valuable books, dating from the work of Carlo Ruini (1602 A. D.), to the present time. This includes three hundred and four bound volumes, besides a number of unbound works, pamphlets, and water color illustrations. To the veterinarian it furnishes a valuable history of the science, while to the artist it provides the classic folios of Gurlt, Stubbs, Brunot, Leblanc and Trousseau, Snape, Blaine and Leisering, in artistic, descriptive and surgical anatomy.

As a gift we acquired the veterinary library of Dr. W. L. Zuill, former dean of the veterinary department of the University of Pennsylvania, and comprising one hundred and fourteen volumes, largely of classic veterinary works in the French language. Eighty-nine other books have been received as gifts, the largest individual donations having been from Professor Gage, thirty-four; United States Department of Agriculture, fifteen; University of the State of New York, eleven; Dr. Law, seven; Dr. Williams, five; (Mrs.) Dr. Wilson, London, five; Dr. Fish, two.

Important modern works have been added by purchase as they became available, until now the the library contains 1,754 bound volumes and a

large number of unbound, and receives a list of thirty technical journals.

As there are \$1,000 of the original Flower gift still in hand it is proposed to add this to the \$10,000 to form a fund the interest of which can be used yearly for the purchase and binding of books. The library rooms, shelving, supervision and incidental expenses will be defrayed out of the college income.

In this way the permanence and high quality of the library can be secured, it can be kept in touch with the most advanced thought and work in our various fields, and each successive class of students and each successive incumbent of a college chair can come to it for information, guidance and inspiration in a way that must redound to our advantage in all coming time. For its past this college has abundant reason to turn in gratitude to the late Governor Flower, and in coming generations and we may hope centuries, the veterinary profession, the great live stock industry, the comparative pathologist and the sanitarian, will have reason to cherish the memory of Mr. and Mrs. Flower, whose wise generosity has made possible this scientific storehouse that must furnish for all future time a Mecca toward which may turn the eyes and feet of the busy workers in our special fields.

Concluding Remarks

OF

Mr. Roswell S. George, LL. B.,

Grand Nephew of Governor Flower.

IT IS with the deepest sense of pleasure I have listened to-day, as one of the Flower family, to this fitting tribute to the memory of one who so much merited the praise of mankind and yet who so little sought it.

I may say that in the death of Mr. Flower, Cornell lost a staunch friend and admirer, one who looked forward to a brilliant future for this University.

Mrs. Flower in her endowment of the Flower Library sought to carry out in her quiet way the wishes of her husband as he would have done. Were Mrs. Flower here to-day she would appreciate the spirit in which these memorial exercises are rendered. She desires me to express her regrets that owing to illness her presence to-day is impossible.

I have been requested to convey Mrs. Flower's thanks to President Schurman, Professor Gage and the faculty of the Veterinary College for their courtesy and kindness.

